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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1953-54.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR Mrs. G. ROTHWELL, J.P.
(ex-officio).

Chairman :

*ALDERMAN W. HOWSON.

Vice-Chairman :

*ALDERMAN J. S. HARGREAVES.

ALDERMAN R. LANCASTER.

COUNCILLOR W. E. BARRATT.

„ N. BENTLEY.

* „ J. B. BIRCH.

* „ F. CAREFOOT.

„ A. DAWSON.

„ W. RIDEHALGH.

* „ A. RILEY.

„ F. WILKINSON.

„ Miss WORSLEY.

*Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

**STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING
DEPARTMENT.**

Medical Officer of Health:

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time Officers):

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.R.San.I.

KEITH FODEN, M.R.San.I.

GORDON ECCLES, Cert.R.San.I.

(Appointed 1st January, 1954).

Student Sanitary Inspector:
(One vacancy).

Infectious Diseases Officer, etc.:

HUBERT MULHALL.

Senior Foreman:

ERNEST LIVESEY.

CLERICAL STAFF:

Public Health Offices:

JOHN WALMSLEY.

ROBERT McCONNELL.

Mrs. A. THORNLEY.

Cleansing Depôt:

WALTER OGDEN.

Refuse Disposal Works:

ROBERT A. WALMSLEY.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1953.

Infant mortality remained low, very much lower than in any recorded year except 1952. Measles, whooping cough, and scarlet fever were more prevalent than in 1952, but these are diseases subject to yearly fluctuations. The absence of enteric infections, food poisoning and dysentery was satisfactory and suggests a good standard of hygiene. Only two cases of poliomyelitis occurred. No deaths occurred from the common infectious diseases, and the three deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were in elderly people. It is fair then to say that the health of the community for 1953 was satisfactory.

I thank the members of the Council for their confidence and support during the year and Mr. Hindle and his staff for their friendly co-operation through the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Hospitals		
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory.
Public Analyst - - -		Mr. S. E. Melling, F.R.I.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.

As stated in previous Reports the present supply has reached the limits of its capacities, but steps are being taken by the Water Board to remedy the situation.

The anticipated bulk supply from Burnley has materialised in May, 1954, and water resources will be further augmented on completion of the Haweswater Aqueduct.

Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1953—

1. By the Corporation, 360.
2. By other bodies or persons, 8.

- B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 750.
 2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 116.
- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, 4.
 2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 6.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty (30) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 20 were respiratory cases and 10 non-respiratory.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:—

Respiratory 12 males, 8 females;
 Non-Respiratory 2 males, 8 females.

Three (3) deaths were caused by this disease in 1953 and these were made up as follows:—

Respiratory 1 female, 2 males;
 Non-Respiratory 0 females, 0 males.

The age groups into which these deaths fall can be seen on the statistical sheet on Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1953:—

Respiratory	males 106,	females 69	=	175
Non-Respiratory	„ 33	„ 42	=	75
				<hr/>
				250
				<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 534 cases during the year 1953. There were 42 cases of Scarlet Fever, 403 cases of Measles, 11 cases of Pneumonia, 72 cases of Whooping Cough, 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, 1 case of Cerebro-spinal Fever, 2 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, and 1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 531 deaths registered in the Borough in 1953. Of these 263 were males and 268 females. The Death Rate for the year was 13.3, as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.4.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 188 of the registered deaths. Cancer filled second place with 105 deaths and Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions came third with 66 deaths.

It will be seen then that

35.40%				Heart Diseases.
19.77%	„	„	„	Cancerous Diseases.
12.42%	„	„	„	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.
0.56%	„	„	„	Tuberculosis.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid 1953, 39,940.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1951, 40,671.

No. of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 12,019; (1953, 14,565).

Rateable Value, £270,011.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,086.

The social conditions of the Borough are good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	277	250	527
Illegitimate	8	12	20
	<hr/> 285	<hr/> 262	<hr/> 547

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stillbirths	6	7	13
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	5	11	16
Deaths (all ages)	263	268	531
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			13.7
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)			23.0
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			13.3

Deaths from puerperal causes: Death-rate per 1,000 total
 Deaths. (live and still) births.

Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis Nil. Nil.

Other maternal causes 1 1.79

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	29.25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	28.46
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ 	50.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	105
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
„ „ Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	3
„ „ Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	0

**TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT
DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.**

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality.
1953	547	531	16	29.3
1952	551	563	14	25.4
1951	581	675	23	39.6
1950	564	614	22	39.0
1949	652	652	32	49.1
1948	690	548	23	33.3
1947	710	610	31	43.7
1946	638	617	25	39.2
1945	570	589	29	50.9
1944	567	564	23	40.6
1943	561	605	17	30.3

**CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS
DURING 1953.**

	Male.	Female.	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, Other forms	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases ...	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm:			
Stomach	9	15	24
Lung, Bronchus	11	2	13
Breast	—	9	9
Uterus	—	6	6
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	26	27	53
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	3	2	5

Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	24	42	66
Coronary Disease, Angina	50	29	79
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Heart Disease	45	59	104
Other Circulatory Disease	10	13	23
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	11	5	16
Bronchitis	20	11	31
Other Diseases of Respiratory System..	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	5
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhœa	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	1	6
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Other defined & ill-defined Diseases ...	18	31	49
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	4	1	5
Homicide and Operations of War	2	—	2
	<hr/> 263	<hr/> 268	<hr/> 531
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953.

	Total cases notified.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	42
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—
Food Poisoning	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—

Measles (excluding German Measles)	403
Whooping Cough	72
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	11
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Acute poliomyelitis	2
Acute polio-encephalitis	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—
Dysentery	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1
Erysipelas	—
Malaria (contracted in this country)	—
(Abroad)	—
	<hr/>
Total	534
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during the year 1953.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1
5	1	1	1	4
10	2	1	—	—
15	—	—	1	2
20	1	1	—	—
25	2	2	—	1
35	—	1	—	—
45	2	1	—	—
55	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—
	<hr/>			
Totals	12	8	2	8
	<hr/>			

DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—
<hr/>				
Totals	2	1	—	—
<hr/>				

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified during the year.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1953 the following examinations were carried out, viz:—

By M.O.H. By Assistant M.O.

Superannuation Acts	49	4
Other examinations	17	—

SANITARY INSPECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,
Town Hall,
ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my TWENTY-SEVENTH Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1953, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1954.

It will be realized that Annual Reports are usually compiled several months after the end of the period to which they relate; the present one is no exception. Furthermore such reports usually consist largely of statistics as a matter of course, and thus convey little guidance to members of the Council and the public generally as to whether or not some of a previous year's possibilities have since become actual fact.

To a reasonable limit therefore current comment might usefully be permitted.

Public Abattoir:

At this time last year, the Corporation's Public Abattoir was still occupied exclusively by the Ministry of Food. In July last this gave way to lettings to private firms, the principle adopted being to admit to a new tenancy any former tenant or members

of families of former tenants. The entire Abattoir was thus quickly re-let, the re-organisation having thus resulted in a surprisingly smooth, and, from a business standpoint, successful changeover. The number of animals slaughtered has been greater than during any similar period in living memory, whilst the quality of meat has been maintained at a very high level. The area of supply has been greatly extended, and in the view of those who should know, the Accrington Abattoir is now said to be, for its size, one of the most active in the North of England. There are no private slaughterhouses in use in the Borough.

Refuse Disposal:

Since the last report was published further progress has been made in the production of a scheme for modification of buildings, plant and machinery, for dealing with the town's refuse at the Corporation's Argyle Street Salvage and Destructor Works. Recently mention has been made of the matter to the Health and Cleansing Committee, and it will not be many months it is hoped before this long-standing problem is solved.

Litter Bins:

From time to time street litter, by its presence or for some other noticeable reason, receives mention, usually in the public press. Strangely enough in the case of Accrington so many visitors, again according to local press comment, go out of their way to refer to street tidiness, at least that is what is usually inferred from such comment. In view of all this those who might still hug the delusion that the mere provision of street litter bins, which usually festoon lamp standards or bus stop indicator posts, is a natural corollary to tidy streets, might think again, as for several years not one single litter bin has adorned an Accrington street. Accrington at one time had several hundreds of street litter bins and such like articles in use, also Accrington has had them supplied free of cost. They might be useful in the countryside but this Department in a long experience manages much better without them. The reason? A public, which for the most part possesses a Civic conscience will not "litter".

Fouling of Footpaths:

Long suffering citizens often ask whether something cannot be done to prevent the fouling of footpaths by domestic pets, usually dogs. In pondering over this matter from time to time, it would seem that those who nightly parade their pets along other people's footpaths must have rather accommodating consciences. It is not beyond the normal wit to teach cleanly habits to dumb animals, though in this particular matter, in many cases, the animal might have the better wit if only the truth were known.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board from upland sources (Reservoirs—Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill), and from underground sources (Altham Borehole and Rishton Colliery).

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and are chlorinated. Water from one reservoir (Mitchell's House) is soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and is treated with lime and chalk after filtration to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbo-solvency, and daily examinations are carried out by the Water Board to ascertain pH value, a standard of 8.0 being sought.

The Board are always vigilant for contamination and exercise all due care in ensuring a safe and wholesome water supply. Routine samples are taken by the Board at monthly intervals from every source of supply, such samples being submitted for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The Water Engineer, Mr. R. Jackson, has kindly supplied the information that, during the year under review, 208 samples of water were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination, together with 11 samples for chemical analysis, the results being satisfactory.

During the year ending 31st March, 1954, 896 yards of new mains were laid, such extensions including provision of mains to new housing estates.

The number of houses in the Borough which do not receive a mains' supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc., is approximately 50, these premises being situated in the rural parts of the town.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year, 214 having been converted to the fresh water flushed type.

The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwelling-houses in the Borough are as follow:—

	1953	1926
Fresh water closets	9,430	2,195
Waste water closets	5,416	9,238
Pail closets	96	294

The preceding statistics illustrate the progress made in the conversion of waste water closets since 1926, the year when I took over control of the Department, approximately 41% of such conveniences having been abolished in that period. This has been achieved notwithstanding a break of eleven years from 1939 to 1950 when war conditions and the Treasury ban on capital expenditure reduced conversion work to relatively small proportions.

However, at the present rate, it would take another quarter of a century to completely abolish this type of sanitary

accommodation in the Borough, which is not a happy prospect. Its substitution by the fresh water flushed type is the principal sanitary requirement of the town, and more rapid fulfilment of this requirement will only materialise through increased expenditure by the Corporation on grant-aid coupled with an increased potential of the local building trades.

Under the provisions of the Accrington Corporation Acts the local authority can require the substitution of fresh water closets for any other type of sanitary convenience, provided a sewer and water supply are available.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices. It will no doubt be appreciated that where the number of defects, etc., remedied exceeds the number discovered, this is due to the fact that many such defects discovered in the previous year have been remedied during the year under review.

In many cases owners are persuaded to voluntarily remedy defects without the necessity of written notices. Such informal action occupies much of the inspectorate's time, but results are usually worth-while.

In addition to the defects referred to in the table, blockages were removed by the Department's employees from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,516 premises.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED AND ABATED.**DWELLING-HOUSES.****INTERNAL.**

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Windows :				
Woodwork	66	78	7	3
Cords	61	54	5	1
Fasteners	13	6	1	0
Glazing and putties ...	36	37	0	0
Mastic pointing	60	65	13	4
Doors :				
Doors	8	11	0	0
Casings	2	4	0	0
Thresholds or weatherboards	2	5	1	0
Hinges and fittings ...	4	3	1	0
Pointing	1	1	0	0
Floors :				
Boarded	10	20	6	3
Flagged	12	15	3	2
Damp	2	4	9	4
Water under	4	3	41	28
Walls :				
Plaster	76	116	16	8
Skirting boards	10	3	4	4
Damp	42	109	37	23
Ceilings :				
Plaster	71	142	7	7
Raining-in	65	170	11	8
Panttries, etc. :				
Walls	2	4	10	1
Ceilings	1	3	7	2
Staircases :				
Walls	7	12	1	0
Ceilings	4	5	1	1
Treads or risers	3	7	2	0
Handrails or balustrades	7	18	1	0
Open to bedrooms	1	0	1	0
Fireplaces :				
Fire-ranges (ironwork)	4	18	4	3

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Firegrates	4	10	3	2
Tiling	0	2	2	2
Fire backs	11	3	4	3
Flues (chimney or oven)	1	17	4	5
Side boilers	1	4	1	0
Ovens	1	4	1	0
Jambs or Lintels	0	3	1	1
Insufficient light	1	3	0	0
Insufficient ventilation ...	1	3	0	0
Electrical fittings	1	11	3	2
Gas fittings	3	2	0	0
Sinks	11	11	3	2
Lavatory basins or baths...	0	1	0	0
Waste pipes—sinks, etc. ...	15	13	6	6
Water pipes or fittings ...	3	4	2	2
Cooking facilities	0	0	1	0
Washing facilities	0	0	1	0
Food Storage facilities	0	1	1	0
Water in cellar	0	0	12	10
Carried forward	627	1005	234	137

DWELLING-HOUSES.**EXTERNAL.**

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Dustbins or Bin-sheds:				
Bins	474	338	161	160
Lids	38	18	84	84
Doors	4	3	3	2
Locks	1	1	0	0
Frames	2	1	0	0
Structures	0	2	1	1
Misuse of Dustbin	0	0	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation, Drains, etc.:				
Waste water or trough closets	17	15	252	206
Fresh water closets ...	2	9	3	2
W.C. pedestals	4	11	2	3

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
W.C. water pipes or fittings	5	7	1	2
W.C. flushing cisterns..	3	3	0	0
Soil pipes	0	0	3	3
Closet structures	17	30	17	15
Closet doors or fittings..	10	9	40	29
Door-casings	9	7	2	2
Pails or privies	0	0	4	2
Cesspools or sewage disposal plants	0	1	0	0
Drains	15	46	260	245
Gullies, channel dishes	3	20	40	47
Coal Storage:				
Structures	11	21	7	6
Doors or fittings	15	12	0	0
Door-casings	11	5	0	0
None provided externally	0	0	1	0
Yard:				
Doors or fittings	11	13	3	2
Door jambs or lintels ...	1	13	2	2
Walls	8	16	7	6
Surfaces	9	2	12	12
Drainage	4	0	31	32
Roofs	54	94	14	9
Eaves gutters	52	107	14	6
Rain water pipes	26	46	21	13
Waste pipes	2	2	3	2
Chimney stacks or pots ...	28	27	6	3
House walls (external)	8	6	3	2
Wall pointing	27	30	8	2
Cement rendering	24	23	2	0
Doorsteps or window or door jambs	3	3	2	0
Other structures	0	3	0	0
Refuse accumulations	1	2	1	1
Barge boards	1	1	0	0
Brought forward	627	1005	234	137
Total	1527	1952	1245	1039

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Prefabricated Houses (Permanent)	Traditional Permanent Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority	208	20	132
(b) By other local authorities ...	—	—	—
(c) By other bodies or persons ...	—	8	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 665
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2139
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 8
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 657

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	810
---	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 15
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 2
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners Nil.
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV—Overcrowding :—
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... } No
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... } information
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein } under
this head.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 4
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 6
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 50
5. Housing Act, 1949 :—
- No schemes for the improvement of existing housing accommodation were submitted.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice :—	1953.
Intimation (preliminary)	531
Statutory	18
	<hr/>
	549
	<hr/>

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

When the aftermath of the first world war had been overcome, the rate of new house building rapidly accelerated, due in no small measure to local authorities themselves embarking on the provision of new houses on an increasing scale. In addition a national slum clearance programme was being actively pursued in the 1930's, in which connection the Department was fulfilling its obligations in this direction, while simultaneously securing the reconditioning of about 250 houses annually.

With the outbreak of the second war this progress was sharply arrested, especially so far as slum clearance was concerned, and house repair became more in the nature of remedying individual defects than wholesale re-conditioning. Nor did the cessation of hostilities bring the anticipated "business as usual", Public Health Departments discovering fresh obstacles in their path in the form of shortages of building labour and materials, priorities for new houses, the high cost of repair work and exigencies of the national economy.

In spite of the fact that Accrington's record in post-war house building is second to none, nevertheless the demand for houses still exists, as evidenced by the fact that at the end of the year there were 750 applicants on the lists for Corporation houses, of whom 116 were living in lodgings. Although these numbers appear high, comparison with the corresponding numbers of applicants in the immediate post war years demonstrates considerable achievement by the Council in satisfying the needs of the homeless.

It is all the more gratifying that, notwithstanding their commitments in respect of new house provision, the Council were able to recommence the arrested slum clearance programme during the year. The machinery was set in motion to obliterate the largest slum area in the town, the Bridge-Davy-Bank Streets area, comprising 29 dwelling-houses. Your Sanitary Inspectors reported this area to be unfit for human habitation in 1938, and at the time of writing this Report the houses have been demolished and are just a bad memory.

In addition to this area, a further 67 houses in the Borough were inspected by the Department before the war with a view to slum clearance, 50 of these houses being in Baxenden. A further area of 15 houses was not dealt with by clearance area procedure, but was to receive special consideration as comprising houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense. Certain other houses in the town have been closed or demolished as the result of informal action by the Department in recent years.

In November, 1953, the Government's White Paper "Houses—The Next Step" was published, which indicated that the problem of sub-standard housing was to be faced up to and tackled resolutely. The plan prepared was to cover repair, maintenance, improvement and demolition, and divided houses into four classes, viz:—

- (1) The best—the great mass of essentially sound houses many of which were in good condition, and all of which could be kept in good condition.
- (2) The worst—the slum houses which ought to be demolished as soon as circumstances permit.
- (3) An intermediate class—the "dilapidated" houses, capable of being put in good condition voluntarily or by the use of statutory powers.
- (4) Houses which could give years of good service if they were improved, i.e., provided with necessary amenities.

Local authorities were to be urged to take up forthwith the campaign of slum clearance which the war interrupted, although it was not intended that the whole of their housing efforts should be switched to the demolition and replacement of slums. The pace and phasing of a slum clearance programme would have to be for local authorities to determine in the first place—by measuring that need against the general housing need upon which they had concentrated their efforts since 1945. It was indicated that each authority should have a programme, should ascertain

the size of their slum problem, should have a phased plan of demolition and replacement, and should begin to put such a programme into operation. Legislation was to be introduced to give statutory effect to this policy, together with compulsory submission of proposals to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Thus conceived, the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, was to be born.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 3 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory. 27 visits were paid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

264 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of infected articles and premises. The following table gives details of disinfections carried out during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

	1953
Rooms of dwelling-houses	155
Schools	—
Books	107
Beds	46
Articles of Bedding	310
Articles of Clothing	8
Miscellaneous Articles	7
	<hr/>
	633
	<hr/>

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, a most satisfactory state of affairs.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The majority of infestations which arise in surface properties originate from the public sewers, rats gaining access to the premises chiefly by way of defective drains, etc.

In order to attack rats at their source the Department has since 1945 carried out regular and systematic bi-annual sewer treatments involving the laying of poison baits in manholes. Such treatments have had a considerable effect in reducing the rat population of the sewers and therefore of surface premises, two men being engaged thereon for the greater part of the year.

1,258 sewer manholes were baited during the period, in conjunction with which 288 manholes were "test-baited".

Systematic inspection and treatment of surface properties for rats and mice were continued throughout the year.

The methods of control adopted for the Borough were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from whom grant aid was available to the extent of 50% of the approved net expenditure incurred.

229 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The Act provides for the licensing of pet shops, and, in deciding whether to grant a licence, the local authority is required to have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; that there will be an adequate supply of suitable food and drink; that the animals will not be sold at

too early an age; that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

Licences were granted in respect of 6 pet shops.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One gut scraper and four tripe dressers carry on scheduled offensive trades on 5 separate premises. The conduct of these trades was, on the whole, satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Although Public Health Departments are constantly alive to the evils of atmospheric pollution, it is gratifying to see that the general public have in recent years taken an increasing interest in the purity of the air they breathe. Towards the end of last year there occurred one of the most significant phenomena ever to bring the subject to the public notice—the much publicised London “Sinog”.

The dense fog which covered Greater London during the four days 5th to 8th December, 1952, was accompanied by a sudden rise in mortality which far exceeded anything previously recorded in a similar fog. The number of deaths exceeding those which would normally have been expected during the first three weeks of December was between 3,500 and 4,000. Subsequent investigations demonstrated the importance of chronic respiratory or cardiac disease in predisposing to death in a heavily polluted atmosphere. Apart from such fatal results other less obvious effects on the health of the people are caused by impure air, and it has been stated that smoke prevention would do more to improve the standard of health in this country than any other single reform now open to us.

On the material side, the soots and acids in polluted atmospheres damage and disfigure the surface of buildings, corrode metals, fabrics, etc., and affect agriculture in no small degree.

The cost of pollution to the nation is very great, recent estimates having put the cost at 100 to 150 million pounds per annum. A major cost of pollution is the fuel wasted in producing smoke and unburnt gases through incomplete combustion, the fuel so wasted being in the region of 5 to 10 million tons per year.

Contrary to popular opinion, domestic fires are the greatest single source of smoke production, producing twice as much smoke as industry in proportion to the coal burnt, and discharging it at a lower level. Over the country as a whole rather less than half the smoke comes from domestic chimneys and about the same quantity from industry, coal consumption by domestic appliances being between one-fifth and one-sixth of the total solid fuel used in the country. The only practicable methods of reducing this source of nuisance on a large scale is the increased use of smokeless fuels, and the replacement of obsolete domestic heating sources by more efficient heating appliances, which will inevitably take some considerable time.

Although a high proportion of pollution comes from dwelling-houses, nevertheless we all know that in industrial areas the factory chimney is also a big culprit. In addition to emitting large amounts of smoke, industrial chimneys are responsible for the greater part of pollution by sulphur dioxide and grit, the former being regarded as the most serious of the gaseous pollutants.

Every type of fuel can be burnt efficiently or inefficiently, and efficiency in the use of bituminous coal by industry over the country as a whole falls short of what is desirable and practicable. Although it is appreciated that industry has considerable problems and difficulties to cope with, nevertheless much improvement is possible. The majority of plants are not working at full efficiency, even having regard to available fuel, plant, labour, etc. Industrial concerns can limit the amount of pollution with modern appliances, intelligent stoking, etc., and if their managers, instead of regarding the boiler-house as a necessary evil, would give it the attention it deserves, they could perform a public service to the town in addition to serving their own interests; with first-rate stoking it is quite common to save between 10 and 20% of the coal burnt without producing any less steam.

In order that we may be provided with details of the concentration of pollution in different parts of the country it is necessary to have some standard method of measuring it. Without systematic records in a number of districts over a period of years it is impossible to estimate the magnitude of the problem to be solved. At the commencement of the year under review the Council decided to participate in this standardised system of measuring and recording pollution. The deposit gauge, which is erected on the roof of the Town Hall, indicates that on an average approximately $17\frac{3}{4}$ tons of solid matter per square mile per month were deposited in Accrington in 1953, the exact results being shown in the table following.

120 visits in connection with atmospheric pollution were made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution:

Month.	Water inches rain.	Tons per Square Mile.		
		Total Water Insoluble Matter	Total Water Soluble Matter	Total Solids
January	0.80	8.12	10.14	18.26
February	0.11	6.96	9.84	16.80
March	1.84	10.70	8.72	19.42
April	3.33	8.62	10.14	18.76
May	2.09	7.79	6.53	14.32
June	2.17	7.29	8.09	15.38
July	4.56	7.82	8.85	16.67
August	3.89	8.42	9.61	18.03
September	4.69	8.02	7.92	15.94
October	1.73	8.62	8.78	17.40
November	5.28	7.95	13.98	21.93
December	2.05	7.15	12.46	19.61
TOTAL	32.54	97.46	115.06	212.52
Monthly Average	2.71	8.12	9.59	17.71

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The number of Factories on the Register is as follows:—

(i) Factories with mechanical power	234
(ii) Factories without mechanical power	49
(iii) Other premises under the Acts (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	6
	<hr/>
	289
	<hr/>

478 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 8 instances it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers or owners to sanitary defects, in both cases the remedy being applied without resorting to formal action.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

66 visits were paid to premises where petroleum spirit and carbide are stored, one new installation for the storage of petroleum spirit being approved during the year.

Licences were issued as follow:—

To store Petroleum Spirit	74
To store Carbide	5
To store Petroleum Mixtures ...	1

The proper storage of petroleum spirit is a matter of the greatest importance if danger is to be avoided. Many installations have been in existence for a considerable number of years without any accident occurring, but there has to be a first time for everything. Considering its dangerous nature no comparable substance is handled as negligently as petrol, familiarity breeding contempt.

Certain existing installations are in need of bringing up to modern standards of safety, and the attention of all licensees is drawn to the necessity for ensuring that their petroleum installations are in such a condition as not to predispose to accident.

With the co-operation of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade it is expected that all existing installations will be inspected and reported upon at the earliest practicable opportunity. In the meantime no new installation is approved without joint inspection by the District Fire Prevention Officer and a Sanitary Inspector, thereby ensuring that any likely source of danger is obviated.

It is therefore fitting that I should extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. J. Clitherow, Chief Fire Officer of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade, for the specialised fire prevention knowledge which he readily makes available to the Department on request.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

There were no cases of contagious diseases of animals reported in the Borough during the year.

In consequence of an outbreak of disease near Manchester the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Infected Areas) Special Order No. 41, 1953, was made on December 4th, 1953. The order declared certain specified areas in the county, including Accrington, to be an Infected Area for the purpose of preventing the spread of the disease, movement of animals being prohibited except under licence until the order was withdrawn on December 18th.

No notices were issued by the Department during the year, and the number of licences issued was as follows, viz:—

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Infected Areas	
Restrictions) Order, 1938	42

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) **Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950.**

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Acts during the year.

256 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article of food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard.	Percentage adulterated or non-standard.
Milk	88	2	2.27
Potted Meat	3	—	—
Jellied Veal	1	—	—
Beef Paste	2	—	—
Salmon Paste	2	—	—
Fish Cakes	1	—	—
Beef Suet	2	—	—
Margarine	1	—	—
Butter	1	—	—
Whole Rice	1	—	—
Ground Rice	1	—	—
Oatmeal	1	—	—
Ground Almonds	2	—	—
Desiccated Coconut	3	—	—
White Pepper	3	—	—
Table Condiment	1	—	—
Vinegar	1	—	—
Marzipan	1	—	—
Coffee	1	—	—
Tea	1	—	—
Jam	2	—	—

Sunny Spread	1	—	—
Coffee and Chicory			
Essence	1	—	—
Almond Flavouring	1	—	—
Walnut Cake Mixture	1	—	—
Coconut Cake Flour	1	—	—
Tea Cake Mixture	1	—	—
Custard Powder	1	—	—
Dried Bilberries	1	—	—
Stoned Dates	1	—	—
Borax	1	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	—	—
Cough Candy	1	—	—
Barley Sugar	1	—	—
“Certs” (Cough sweets)	1	—	—
Blackcurrant Cordial	1	—	—
Ginger Wine			
(Non-alcoholic)	1	—	—
Indian Brandee	1	—	—
Blood Tonic	1	—	—
Fever and Influenza			
Mixture	1	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	1	—	—
Chlorophyll Chewing			
Gum	1	—	—
Compound Chlorophyll			
Pills	1	—	—
Table Jelly	1	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	142	2	1.41
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The two sub-standard milk samples were obtained from two vendors, details of the samples and action taken being as follow, viz :—

1. **Vendor A.**

One retail sample of tuberculin tested milk revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 14%, while the corresponding "appeal to cow" samples taken at the farm were reported genuine. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £10 and costs being imposed.

2. **Vendor B.**

One retail sample of milk revealed a natural deficiency in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.9%, in consequence of which the vendor was cautioned.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

All bacteriological examinations of milk samples continue to be carried out by the Department of Pathology, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

During the year 24 samples of pasteurised milk and 15 samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests; all samples satisfied the legally prescribed tests.

11 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

43 samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests. 8 samples failed the prescribed test and appropriate action was taken in respect of them.

(c) **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

A hospital patient aged 4 years was notified as suffering from abdominal brucellosis. Bacteriological samples of the raw milk supply to his home were taken and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for examination, the reports indicating the presence of brucella abortus organisms in two cows. The milk from the particular farm was therefore diverted for pasteurisation before sale until the milk was clear of infection. One of the cows concerned was subsequently slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders and the other was disposed of for ultimate slaughter.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

In accordance with these Regulations duties in connection with the supervision of milk production on farms were transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1949.

Local authorities, however, retained their duties in connection with the control of milk distribution, including the registration of distributors.

166 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

The special designations permitted for raw milk are (a) Tuberculin Tested, and (b) Accredited, those for heat-treated milk being principally (a) Pasteurised, and (b) Sterilised.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations, viz :—

Dealer's Licence (Sterilised)	137
„ „ (Pasteurised)	46
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	27
„ „ (Accredited)	0
Supplementary Licence (Sterilised)	2
„ „ (Pasteurised)	2
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	3
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

MEAT INSPECTION AND THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

The meat industry has for some time been obviously approaching the stage where removal of controls with consequent de-rationing of the commodity would be a practicable achievement, but the precise method and date of decontrol have been a matter

for speculation by all concerned. Finality has now been reached four months after the end of the year under review with the announcement of the Government's plans for handing the industry back to the trade, thereby making the year 1953 the last complete year of Ministerial tenancy of the Public Abattoir.

Since January, 1940, the Ministry of Food have been sole tenants of the Abattoir and the only authorised purchasers of live-stock for slaughter, this monopoly of 14 years' duration having produced an efficient system of meat production and distribution under war-time and post-war difficulties. Elimination of private slaughterhouses with centralised slaughtering in a Public Abattoir, together with complete co-ordination of effort between the staffs of the Ministry and the Public Health Department, have maintained a reliable meat inspection service during the whole period. A high standard of inspection has been achieved in spite of the theoretical obstacle that all meat has been Crown property and therefore incapable of legal seizure until in the possession of the private trader; meat found to be unsound or diseased has been voluntarily surrendered by the Ministry for destruction.

As I have mentioned in previous Reports, it is worth remembering that during the whole of this period the Corporation's Sanitary Inspectors have been responsible for safeguarding meat supplies, not only to the town itself but also to adjacent townships, comprising a total population $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as great as Accrington's.

Perusal of Table I which follows these remarks should give cause for some satisfaction insofar as the continued decline in percentage of cattle affected with tuberculosis has been maintained, although the position should give rise to no complacency among stock-breeders. Neither should the statistics be misinterpreted by the general public, as has unfortunately been the case in the past; they illustrate the incidence of disease in carcasses inspected, and any inference that such unsound meat is bought in the shop by the housewife is totally incorrect.

The object of meat inspection is to ensure a supply which is fit and safe for human consumption, which is effected by careful

post-mortem examination of all food animals. Meat is not allowed to leave the Abattoir either for retail sale or manufacturing purposes until it has been passed by competent meat inspectors as fit, all diseased meat and offals having been rejected and surrendered for destruction.

Reduction in the incidence of disease among live animals is a field in which there is ample scope for investigations and research for the veterinary profession, while the sanitary inspector's duty is detection of disease in all its manifestations in the carcase with the protection of public health his only concern. Success by the veterinarians will ease the task of the sanitarians, not to mention reducing the burden of financial losses resulting from condemnations on account of disease.

TABLE 1.—Annual Comparisons.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Number of cattle slaughtered and inspected	5,011	4,752	5,956	5,851	4,676
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24.0%	22.8%	22.4%	23.8%	32.9%
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	26.8%	28.4%	31.1%	37.8%	35.1%
Total Disease Percentage	50.8%	51.2%	53.5%	61.6%	68.0%

TABLE II.—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle other than, Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected	2284	2727	1096	18342	3459
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	13	15	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	337	866	3	1080	249
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	14.8%	31.8%	1.5%	6.0%	7.6%
	<hr/>				
	24.0%				
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	12	80	6	—	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	290	961	—	—	146
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.2%	38.2%	0.6%	—	4.4%
	<hr/>				
	26.8%				

TABLE III.—Conditions Necessitating Condemnation of
Whole Carcases and Organs.

Diseases	Cattle other than		Calves	Sheep and	Pigs
	Cows	Cows		Lambs	
Tuberculosis	12	80	6	—	7
Septic Diseases	—	—	3	—	1
Pyæmia	—	—	—	—	1
Toxaemia	—	—	—	—	2
Fever	—	—	—	—	4
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1
General Dropsy and Emaciation	—	—	—	13	—
General Bruising	—	1	—	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	3
Moribundity	—	—	1	1	1
Immaturity	—	—	9	—	—
Generalised Sarcocysts	—	—	—	1	—
Total	12	81	19	15	20

TABLE IV.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

	Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals.			
	1953		1952	
	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.
Tuberculosis	75,355	27,632	81,446	29,828
All diseases except Tuberculosis	7,798	42,414	7,084	37,377
Total Home Killed	83,153	70,046	88,530	67,205
Add Imported	4,376	282	1,365	279
Total Weight Condemned	87,529	70,328	89,895	67,484

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

2,043 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Canned Foods	4,771 tins
Miscellaneous Glass-packed Foods	204 articles
Cheese	125 lbs.
Butter	11 ,,
Fish	88 ,,
Sausages	126 ,,
Cereals	6 ,,
Shredded Coconut	2 ,,
Fruit	243 ,,
Mutton	7 ,,
Cooked Steak	24 ,,
Bacon	26 ,,
Crab	1
Table Jellies	2
College Pudding	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 50 of the above-mentioned Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in its area, in any case where

it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1954, four burials were effected at a net cost to the Corporation, after deducting receipts for death grants, etc., of £14 10s. 8d., the deceased persons being adults in all cases.

Since the Act came into operation eighteen burials have been effected, the funeral arrangements having been made in all cases by the Cemetery Registrar, Mr. D. Robertson, in collaboration with the Department, in which connection it is fitting to record the valuable co-operation and assistance given at all times by Mr. Robertson.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1954.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse	8,840	14	0
Clinker from Schools, etc.	414	17	0
Market Refuse	197	0	0
Fish and Trade Refuse	588	8	2
	<hr/> 10,040	19	2 <hr/>

(2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to Tips (17.9%)	1,801	3	1
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and			
Incineration (81.1%) 8,138	8,138	8	3
(b) Direct Incineration			
(1.0%) 101	101	7	2
	<hr/> 8,239	16	1 <hr/>
	10,040	19	2 <hr/>

(3) Weight of Refuse.

Actual weight	8,487	12	2
Estimated weight	451	16	0
Estimated weight from regular			
test weighings 1,101	1,101	11	0
	<hr/> 10,040	19	2 <hr/>

CLEANSING SERVICE.**House and Trade Refuse**

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1954.

Item	Particulars. 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Total 4
	Revenue Account.			
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	8,778	6,886	15,664
	(ii) Transport	9,043	1,269	10,312
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	3,104	6,132	9,236
	(iv) Other items	32	20	52
	(v) Total gross expenditure	20,957	14,307	35,264
2	Gross Income	4,817	5,224	10,041
3	Net Cost	16,140	9,083	25,223
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	17 6	13 8	31 2
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	18 0	2 6	20 6
7	Net cost (all expendi- ture) per ton	32 2	18 1	50 3
		£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	404.1	227.4	631.5
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,020.0	574.0	1,594.1

1. Area (statute acres) 4,418
2. Population at 30th June, 1953 39,940
3. Total refuse collected (tons) 10,041
4. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day
(365 days to year) 13.8
5. Number of premises from which refuse is collected ... 15,823
6. Average haul by collection vehicle to
disposal point... approx. $\frac{7}{8}$ mile.

CLEANSING SERVICE.**Street Cleansing.**

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1954.

Item	Particulars 1	Street Sweeping & Watering 2	Street Gully Cleansing 3	Total 4
	Revenue Account.			
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	4,199	250	4,449
	(ii) Transport	2,321	1,057	3,378
	(iii) Plant, Equipment, buildings, etc.	1,224	133	1,357
	(iv) Other items	29	—	29
	(v) Total gross expenditure	7,773	1,440	9,213
2	Gross Income (excluding reimbursements from Ministry of Transport and the County Council)	876	196	1,072
3	Net Cost	6,897	1,244	8,141
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Gross expenditure on snow clearance not included previously	1,728	—	—
	Unit Costs			
6	Net cost per street mile cleansed	s. d. 43 5	—	—
7	Net cost per 1,000 street gullies cleansed	£ —	£ 59.2	£ —
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	172.7	31.2	203.8

1. Mileage of streets cleansed 71.42

2. Frequency of cleansing: %

(a) At least once daily 3.6

(b) Three to five times weekly 6.2

(c) Twice weekly	2.9	
(d) Once weekly	16.1	
(e) Less than once weekly	71.2	
	—	100.0%
3. Total miles cleansed	3,175	
4. Number of street gullies cleansed	6,549	
5. Number of gully cleansings during the year	21,020	
6. Weight of street and gully refuse	625 tons	
7. Percentage of street cleansing done mechanically...	52.8	
8. Percentage of gully cleansing done mechanically...	100.0	

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours rained off, etc.
S. and D. TE 9389	September 1929	2035½	37½	131½	81.8	108	176½
S. and D. OTC 910	June 1952	2222½	9	139½	89.3	108	10½
S & D, PTE 70	May, 1953	1582½	10	95½	89.4	72	10½
Dennis 1 ATC 439	September 1935	1316½	557	181	54.2	143	235½
Dennis 2 BTD 22	November 1936	1861	229	111	72.8	93	261
Dennis 4 FTJ 18	November 1945	2152	249½	125	81.6	103	6½
Dennis 5 JTD 464	May 1948	1867½	213½	103½	71.4	99	345½
Dennis 6 LTJ 528	June 1950	2076¾	359½	118¾	78.6	86	—
Karrier 1 FTD 769	January 1944	2169½	268¾	132	82.4	63	—
Karrier 2 JTF 386	September 1948	2143	147	130¾	83.7	106	32¾
Karrier 3 KTF 954	August 1949	2351	40½	141½	88.8	105	10½
Karrier 4 JTJ 308	March 1953	2233½	73½	132¾	84.8	63	130
Lewin MTE 126	December 1950	1467½	328	387¾	56.4	43½	373¾
Total		25477½	2522½	1930½	77.9	1192½	1592½

REFUSE COLLECTION—DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT :					
	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	139,413	153,787	127,854	152,954	114,488
Total tonnage	1,815.9	1,684.9	1,527.4	2,020.6	1,350.7
Bins per man per hour	13	17	14	14	13
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 387	lbs. 421	lbs. 384	lbs. 390	lbs. 343
Weight per bin (lbs.)	29	25	27	30	26
No. of bins for District.....	3,407	3 043	2,967	3,948	2,501
Frequency of emptyings	41	51	43	39	46

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

	1953-54			
	Summer		Winter	
	Weight	%	Weight	%
	lbs.		lbs.	
Weight of one cubic yard.....	559	100.0	758	100.0
Fine dust minus 5/16"	168	30.0	340	44.8
Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4"	69	12.3	146	19.3
Fuel cinder over 3/4"	57	10.2	18	2.4
Organic matter	39	7.0	22	2.9
Paper	80	14.3	33	4.3
Metal	30	5.4	26	3.4
Rags	17	3.0	6	0.8
Glass	40	7.2	35	4.6
Bone	2	0.4	2	0.3
Unclassified combustible	32	5.7	100	13.2
Unclassified incombustible	25	4.5	30	4.0
Average weight per bin	25		30	

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.**SALES.****Year ended 31st March, 1954.**

	Tons cwts. qrs.			£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	400	14	1			
Textiles	19	5	2			
Compressed Destructor Scrap..	228	6	3			
Scrap Iron	34	10	0			
Lime Mortar	319	7	1			
Kitchen Waste	369	18	0			
	<hr/>			5,315	11	10

There is a decline of £1,051 on receipts from sales as compared with those of the previous year. The main factor contributing to this reduction is the loss of £800 revenue for steam supplied to the adjoining Electricity Undertaking. The remaining water tube boiler has been dismantled during the year, the other boiler having been removed in the previous year. As previously indicated such removal has been necessitated by the worn-out condition of the boilers, and subsequent reconstruction of the flues has secured much improvement in draught to the furnaces.

Other contributory factors to the decline in revenue have been the reduced income from lime mortar and kitchen waste. The continued drop each year in mortar sales is a matter for growing concern to the Department; only 319 tons have been sold in 1953 compared with 450 tons in 1952 and 2,465 tons in 1947.

The principal reason for reduced sales is the preference nowadays of the building trade for cement instead of lime mortar, especially in the building of new houses.

From the beginning of the financial year under review kitchen waste from communal bins, etc., has been sold untreated to a private firm, whereas previously it was sold as boiled swill from the Disposal Works. The swill boiling plant has been dismantled as a consequence of demolition of the water tube boilers and a steadily decreasing profit margin. Income from raw kitchen waste is £433 less than that from boiled swill in the previous year, although this is compensated by elimination of the cost of boiling. The present value of kitchen waste is not adequate to cover the cost of collection, but it must be borne in mind that, if not separately collected, much of this organic matter would appear in the dustbin refuse and would incur additional incineration costs. In spite of this, however, the time is rapidly approaching for discontinuance of the kitchen waste collection service unless there is a price increase, which is most unlikely.

Income from waste paper has increased by £704 on the previous year, and this would have been greater had the market in the first half of the year been as good as in the second. Although renewal of demand for the commodity has come as a welcome relief, nevertheless the price received per ton has only been about one-third of that received just under two years ago.

At the end of the year the sum of £326 18s. 4d. had been distributed among the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper, as compared with £107 13s. 1d. during the year 1952-53.

In conclusion, I should again like to repeat a few words of appreciation on behalf of the Department. Our thanks are due to the Mayor and every member of the Town Council, not forgetting

the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Cleansing Committee, for a continuation of their encouragement and support throughout the past twelve months. We thank also the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer and other colleague Officials and their staffs for their usual co-operation and assistance. My personal thanks are also due to Dr. Webster, Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer, for his continued backing and willing assistance at all times, and, finally, to a very capable and loyal staff and body of employees for services well and truly rendered.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.





